

Pollution cleanup meeting

Deserted plant in Templeton

By George Barnes
TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF

TEMPLETON — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state Department of Environmental Protection will hold an informational meeting April 25 to discuss the \$720,000 cleanup of the former Baldwinville Products plant on Mill Street.

The meeting is at 7 p.m. in the library of Narragansett Regional High School on Baldwinville Road.

The 110-acre Baldwinville Products property is located on the edge of the Otter River, near the center of the Baldwinville section of town. It was abandoned in the mid-1990s. Since then, several fires have occurred at the site, including a four-alarm fire that started on New Year's Day. That fire was considered to be arson.

The property includes four mill buildings and a warehouse, which are in disrepair. The buildings contain friable asbestos material and about 100 drums, 40 aboveground storage

tanks and two large vats that had been used in the manufacturing of paper at the mill. Numerous containers and cylinders are also stored in the buildings or nearby.

Michael Barry, on-site coordinator for the EPA, said the initial cleanup would involve removing imminent hazards to reduce the risk of fire at the plant or the spread of the contamination.

"We haven't done any subsurface investigation," he said.

Once the hazardous materials and the asbestos are removed, he said, the EPA will evaluate the site to see whether there are contaminants in the ground.

Along with offering information on the cleanup of the former paper making plant, EPA representatives will provide an update on the cleanup effort at the former Temple-Stuart furniture factory.

Both the paper mill and the Temple-Stuart property were owned by American Tissue Mills of Massachusetts. American Tissue had bought and later mothballed the Baldwinville Products plant, eliminating 80 jobs. As part of the Baldwinville Products purchase, the company operated the Templeton Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The town was later forced to take over operation of the treatment plant.

Yesterday, Mr. Barry said the Temple-Stuart project is partially completed. He said the factory complex still looks like an abandoned industrial site, but the hazardous materials at the site have been removed. The site was contaminated with asbestos and polychlorinated biphenyls or PCBs.

The contamination also spread to the nearby neighborhood, requiring the removal of topsoil from yards around homes in the area. Mr. Barry said that work is ongoing.

Last year, the EPA oversaw the cleanup of 26 properties near the Temple-Stuart plant; 22 more properties are slated for removal of contaminated soil.

"At the Temple-Stuart furniture plant, we are finished," he said. "We've removed the most imminent hazards from there."

Contractors for the EPA also began work last week to restore the 26 properties where soil has been removed. The restoration will include evaluating each property and backfilling the yards with sand and loam. As part of the restoration, the contractors will be hydroseeding and planting trees and shrubs.

Groundbreaking kicks off Assumption stadium project

By Jacqueline Reis
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WORCESTER — Assumption College has broken ground on a new \$3.2 million multisport stadium project that will not include any practice fields in the wooded area known as the former Brooks property.

Yesterday's formal groundbreaking took place weeks after site contractor Marois Brothers of Worcester started work on the site of the school's existing football and lacrosse field, where the stadium will go. The new stadium will include lights, a synthetic turf field, grandstand stadium seating for 1,200

was "cost-prohibitive." Michael Ohl, a member of the Bald Hill Neighborhood Coalition that formed to oppose the practice fields, said the groundbreaking was "good news at the moment."

"We're kind of keeping tabs on what's going on, but until something specific is proposed for the property adjacent to the neighborhood, there's really nothing to push against," Mr. Ohl said.

The fields will serve the school's lacrosse, soccer, football and field hockey teams and intramural sports. Approximately 70 percent of Assumption's students play intramural sports, but they have no outdoor

stadium, and a small number of private donors already have raised \$600,000, said Thomas Ryan, Assumption's vice president of institutional advancement. The school hopes to raise the remaining \$1.1 million from individuals and corporations. A large chunk of that, \$500,000 to \$750,000, could be raised from whoever buys naming rights to the stadium, Mr. Ryan said.

Yesterday's ceremony included comments by Chris Grogan, who will be co-captain of next season's football team. "It's pure excitement and a rush that it's finally upon us," he said of the new stadium.

Yesterday was a busy day at